

Application No.: 10/038,404

Docket No.: 10253-00146-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an article having a textile surface with a stainblocker composition, the textile surface being formed from at least two types of dyeable nylon yarns, wherein at least one type of nylon yarn is dyeable by an acid dyestuff and at least one other type of nylon yarn is dyeable by a cationic dyestuff,

the method comprising the steps of:

(a) coloring the textile surface of the article with at least an acid dyestuff and a cationic dyestuff;

(b) applying a stainblocker composition to the textile surface of the article, the stainblocker composition having a temperature from twenty to ninety-five degrees Celsius (20 to 95 °C);

(c) drying using infra-red energy to dry the article in a drying zone having a temperature in the range from seventy-five degrees Celsius to ninety-five degrees Celsius (75-95 °C) for a time sufficient to allow the stainblocker composition to react with the nylon yarn in the textile surface; and

(d) rinsing the textile surface of the article with water, and thereafter drying the same,

such that substantially the entire textile surface of the article is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the textile surface has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Red 40 Stain Scale.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the article is a carpet tile, and wherein, in step (b) the stainblocker composition is applied using a flood process,

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such that substantially the entire textile surface of the carpet tile is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the textile surface of the carpet tile has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Red 40 Stain Scale.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claims 1 or 2 wherein the temperature of the drying zone is in the range from eighty degrees Celsius to eighty-five degrees Celsius (80-85 °C).

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the article is conveyed on a conveyor, and wherein the flood process is used to apply the stainblocker composition to the textile surface of the article on the conveyor.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, before step a) further comprising the step of:

cutting the textile article into tiles of a predetermined size, and wherein

in step (b), the stainblocker composition is applied using a flood process,

such that substantially the entire textile surface of each tile is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the textile surface has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Red 40 Stain Scale.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, after step a) and before step b), further comprising the step of:

cutting the textile article into tiles of a predetermined size, and wherein

in step (b) the stainblocker composition is applied using a flood process,

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such that substantially the entire textile surface of each tile is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the textile surface has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Red 40 Stain Scale.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, after step d), further comprising the step of:

cutting the textile article into tiles of a predetermined size such that substantially the entire textile surface of each tile is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the textile surface has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Red 40 Stain Scale.

9. (Original) The method of claims 1, or 2 wherein the textile article is a pile surface structure having a plurality of pile elements thereon, the pile elements being formed from the first and the second types of nylon yarn,

wherein substantially the entire height of each pile element is coated with a stainblocker composition whereby the pile surface structure has a stain resistance of 9 or higher on the AATCC Stain Rating Scale 40.

10. (Original) The method of claims 1, or 2 wherein the stainblocker composition is of the anionic functionalized type.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the stainblocker composition is selected from the group consisting of sulphonated phenol formaldehyde condensate type, maleic acid anhydride type, acrylate dispersions and mixtures thereof; the stainblocker is present between three percent (3%) and five percent (5%) based on the weight of the nylon yarns; and the pH of the stainblocker bath is between two (2) and five (5).

12. (Original) The method of claims 1, or 2 wherein the stainblocker composition is of the sulphone resole type having nonionic functionality.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the stainblocker composition is present between one and one-half percent (1.5%) and six percent (6%) based on the weight of the nylon yarns, and the pH of the stainblocker bath is between six (6) and seven and one-half (7.5).

14. (Original) The method of claims 1, or 2 wherein the two types of dyeable nylon yarns are bulked continuous filament yarns.

15. (Original) The method of claims 1, or 2 wherein the two types of dyeable nylon yarns are staple spun yarns.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein at least some of the pile elements are formed from both a nylon yarn dyeable by an acid dyestuff and a nylon yarn dyeable by a cationic dyestuff.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein at least some of the pile elements are formed from a nylon yarn dyeable by an acid dyestuff and at least others of the pile elements are formed from a nylon yarn dyeable by a cationic dyestuff.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the stainblocker composition is present between two percent (2%) and three percent (3%) based on the weight of the nylon yarns.

Claims 19-27 (Withdrawn)